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REPORT ON
WATER DISTRIBUTION IN THE
LAKE TAHOE REGION

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LAKE TAHOE REGION WATER DISTRIBUTION

INTRODUCTION

Although the largest fresh-water lake in California is within the confines of the Tahoe Basin, the Basin, as a whole, has never had adequate water distribution systems to serve the public. There are 66. separate water companies in the Tahoe Basin. Some of these companies have multiple isolated water systems. A list of these water systems is included on the following pages, along with a map showing the general location of each water system.

Appendix A includes a tabulation of water systems including the area served, the number of services, the estimated population and the source of supply. From this tabulation, it can be seen that the size of the water system varies from those with only two consumers, to the largest, which serves an estimated population of 9,000. All but a few of the present water systems are inadequate with respect to distribution, layout, pipe size and storage capacity, resulting in low flows at times of maximum demand and minimum or inadequate pressures. Many systems have virtually no built-in fire protection capabilities. These inadequacies of supply and distribution are a detriment to orderly development, and the lack of adequate water supply for fire protection causes a serious economic impact in the form of high fire insurance rates and a critical hazard to life and property.

PRESENT TRENDS

The number of water companies in the Basin has been reduced from 80 in 1963 to 66 at this writing. Most of the public utility districts and general improvement districts providing sanitary sewer service to the Basin are also in the business of providing water. The Tahoe City PUD has acquired several private water systems and is considering the acquisition of additional water systems. There are about 30 separate water systems within the Tahoe City PUD.

There are nine private water companies within the South Tahoe PUD and this District is actively negotiating to acquire at least eight of these nine companies, with the intention of upgrading water supply, distribution, storage and fire protection capabilities.

Investor-owned systems do not generally provide adequate fire protection because the cost involved for the larger mains, increased storage and reliability does not yield a profitable return under Public Utility Commission Rules. Investor-owned systems can only charge the consumer for the service provided, and fire protection returns only minor amounts of revenue in the form of hydrant rentals.

Investor-owned systems tend to serve the area inefficiently because of scattered and inadequately connected systems.

Public ownership can result in adequate water supply for fire protection and lower rates to the users because administrative costs, overhead and operating costs can be lower with the larger integrated systems than with the small, scattered and unconnected systems. The larger municipally-owned systems can achieve greater operating efficiency, and these municipal systems will also be eligible for Federal grant funds to upgrade water supply, storage and distribution systems.

LAKE TAHOE REGION WATER SYSTEMS

Map Key

NEVADA

Washoe County

1 Washoe County SID No. 1
2 Crystal Bay Water Company
3 Incline Village GID
4 Incline Beach Association, Inc.

Carson City

None

Douglas County

5 Louis Iacometti
6 Cave Rock Water Company
7 Paul W. Diggle dba Snug Harbor Water Company
8 Skyland Water Company
9 Zephyr Cove Water Company
10 Round Hill General Improvement District
11 Elk Point Country Club, Inc.
12 Louis L. Eickmeyer
13 Kingsbury Water Company
14 Edgewood Water Company
15 South Tahoe Properties

CALIFORNIA

City of South Lake Tahoe

16 Lakeside Park Association
17 Tahoe Sierra Water Company
18 Tahoe Southside Water Utility (also provides Water service in Douglas County)
19 Tahoe Keys Water Co.
20 Lukins Water Service
21 Echo View Estates Water Co.

El Dorado County

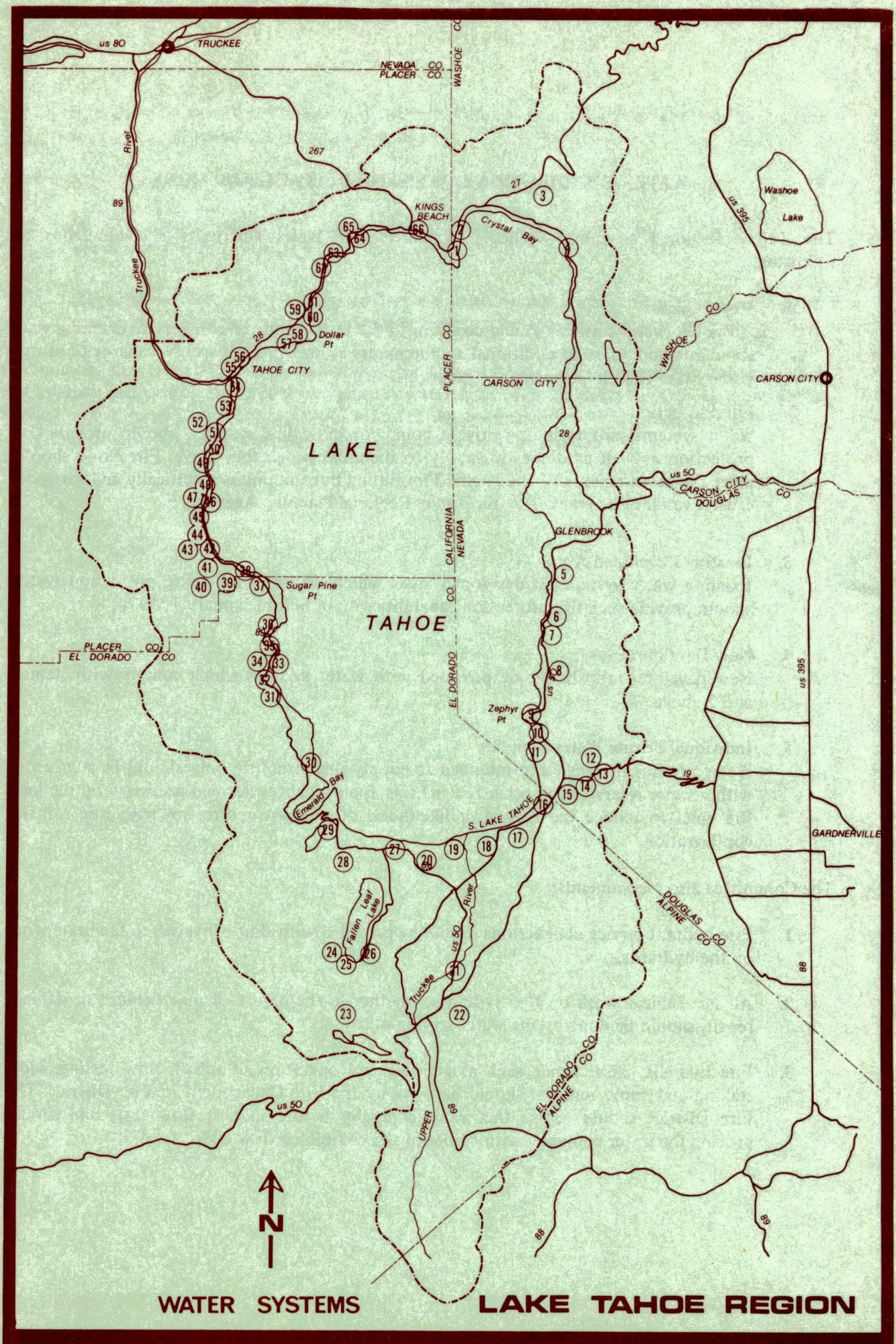
22 Tahoe Paradise Water and Gas Company
23 Angora Water Company (also supplies water in City of South Lake Tahoe)
24 Cathedral Water Association
25 Craven and Street
26 Fallen Leaf Mutual Water Company

El Dorado County (continued)

27 Tallac Village Water Co.
28 Spring Creek Tract Association
29 Cascades Properties Water Co.
30 Tamarack Mutual Water Co.
31 Tahoe City PUD
32 West Tahoe Water System
33 Rubicon Palisades
34 Tahoe Hills
35 Meeks Bay Vista Water Co.
36 Glenridge Park Water Co.
37 Water's Edge Condominium Water Co.
38 Tahoe Cedars Water Company (also supplies water in Placer County)
39 McKinney Water District (also supplies water in Placer County)

Placer County

40 Tahoma Meadows
41 Quail Lake Water Co.
42 McKinney Shores Water Service
43 Madden C. Water Co.
44 Homewood Water Co.
45 Tahoe Swiss Village Water Co.
46 Tahoe Pines Water System
47 Skyland Water Co.
48 St. Michaels Woods W. System
49 Timberland Water Service
50 Ward Ck. Water Company
51 Wards Well Water Co.
52 Talmont Estates Water Co.
53 Tahoe Park Water System
54 Tahoe Tavern
55 Tahoe City PUD
56 Lake Park Terrace
57 Lake Tahoe Water Corp.
58 Lake Forest Water Co.
59 Highland Estates Water Co.
60 Sierra Nevada Water Co.
61 Lake Forest Water
62 Fulton Water Co.
63 Carnelian Bay Water Co.
64 Tahoe Estates Water Co.
65 Agate Bay Water Co.
66 North Tahoe PUD (also provides water service in Crystal Bay area of Nevada)


us 80
TRUCKEE
NEVADA CO.
PLACER CO.
WASHOE CO.
Truckee River
89
267
KINGS BEACH
Crystal Bay
Washoe Lake
us 395
Dollar Pt
TAHOE CITY
PLACER CO.
CARSON CITY
WASHOE CO
CARSON CITY
LAKE
us 50
CARSON CITY
DOUGLAS CO
GLENBROOK
CALIFORNIA
NEVADA
Sugar Pine Pt
TAHOE
PLACER CO.
EL DORADO CO
EL DORADO CO.
us 50
Zephyr Pt
us 395
Emerald Bay
S. LAKE TAHOE
19
GARDNERVILLE
Fallen Leaf Lake
Truckee River
us 50
DOUGLAS CO
ALPINE CO
88
Truckee
EL DORADO CO
ALPINE CO
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us 50
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88
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WATER SYSTEMS
LAKE TAHOE REGION

WATER DISTRIBUTION GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's Committee on Water Distribution recommends the following:

1. Water Quality
   All public water supplies should conform to the U. S. Public Health Service drinking water standards and to such additional requirements as are applicable in Nevada or California under State Health Department regulations.

2. Fire Protection
   Water systems, not including private homes or individual systems, should provide fire protection as well as domestic supply to the areas which they serve. Fire flows should meet the requirements of the Pacific Fire Rating Bureau, unless specifically and for good cause a variance be granted by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

3. Existing Developed Areas
   Existing water systems in developed areas which do not have a fire protection system should provide such fire protection capabilities on or before January 1, 1976.

4. New Developments
   New developments should be provided with water systems which comply with Items 1 and 2 above.

5. Individual Private Water Supplies
   Water systems designed and intended to supply one structure only should be augmented with a water reservoir and other fire-fighting appurtenances deemed necessary by the local fire chief to reduce the hazard or likelihood of a one-structure fire triggering a major conflagration.

The Committee also recommends:

1. Fire hydrant service connections should be provided with shut-off valves to facilitate work on the hydrants.

2. All mechanical work on fire hydrants, whether in the nature of maintenance or damage repair, should be done by the water-serving utility.

3. Fire hydrant maintenance such as greasing and operation of valves, flow testing, snow staking and snow removal should be done by the Fire Department or Fire District. The Fire District should advise the water company before making flow tests and should provide the water company with copies of the completed flow tests.

4. Fire Districts should pay a fire hydrant rental charge and should pay a reasonable charge for the maintenance and repair of hydrants.

5. All water systems should meter and record the amount of water pumped daily.

6. Water systems, including individual water services hereafter installed, should be constructed with corrosion protection devices.

7. Property owners who continue to use individual private water systems should pay a reasonable charge for any fire protection service they receive from the water companies.

In summary, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency should exert its influence to encourage the consolidation and/or upgrading of the numerous water systems in the Basin to insure that residents and visitors will have a plentiful supply of safe and wholesome water for domestic use and that a greatly improved water supply for fire protection purposes will be provided.

SOURCE MATERIAL

South Tahoe Public Utility District, *Water Works Program*, January 1961.

Lake Tahoe Area Council and Max C. Fleischmann Foundation of Nevada, *Comprehensive Study on Protection of Water Resources of Lake Tahoe Basin Through Controlled Waste Disposal*, June 1963.

APPENDIX

LAKE TAHOE REGION WATER SYSTEMS

SYSTEM	AREA SERVED	NUMBER OF SERVICES	POPULATION	SOURCE
NEVADA – Washoe County				
Washoe County SID No. 1	Casin area east of Stateline	36		NTPUD
Crystal Bay Water Co.	Crystal Bay Park No. 1 Cal-Neva Highlands 1 & 2	66		Lake Tahoe
Incline Village GID	IVGID	870	6,500	Lake Tahoe Mill Creek Incline Creek
Incline Beach Association, Inc.		17		Lake Tahoe Incline Village GID
NEVADA - Douglas County				
Louis Iacometti	Logan Creek Estates	7		Lake Tahoe Logan Shoals Creek
Cave Rock Water Co.	Cave Rock Estates Lincoln Park Subdivision Cave Rock Village Lakeridge subdivision	57		Lake Tahoe
Snug Harbor Water Co.		5		Lake Tahoe
Skyland Water Co.	Skyland Subdivision and 1/2 mi. north & south of Skyland subdivision	240		Lake Tahoe & North Fork Zephyr Cove Creek
Zephyr Cove Water Company	Zephyr Cove Zephyr Knolls Zephyr Heights Marla Bay	235		Lake Tahoe South Zephyr Creek
Round Hill GID	Round Hill GID	140		Lake Tahoe
Elk Point Country Club, Inc.	Elks Subdivision Elks Point Country Club	80		Wells
Louis L. Eickmeyer	Lakewood Knolls Terrace View Heights	15		Well
Kingsbury Water Co.	Area south of Round Hill to Parks Cattle & Feed Co. from Lake Tahoe to summit of Kingsbury Grade	400	3,000	Wells & Lake Tahoe
Edgewood Water Company	Stateline casino area	5		Lake Tahoe Lapham Creek
South Tahoe Properties Utility Co.	Kingsbury Highlands	25		Wells

CALIFORNIA - City of South Lake Tahoe				
Lakeside Park Association				
Tahoe Sierra Water Company	Rancho Bijou-Stateline Tahoe Sierra and Barton tracts	2,304	9,000	Wells
Tahoe Southside Water Utility	Bijou and Al Tahoe area	1,600	6,000	Cold Creek and 1 well
Tahoe Keys Water Co.	Tahoe Keys	264	813	Well
Lukins Water Service	5 subdivisions in Tahoe Valley-Tallac Village area	555	2,000	4 wells
Echo View Estates Water Co.				
CALIFORNIA - El Dorado County				
Tahoe Paradise Water & Gas Co.	Tahoe Paradise (Meyers) and upstream subdivisions along Upper Truckee River	900	3,300	2 wells and infiltation gallery on spring-fed stream
Angora Water Company	Gardner Mountain and Angora Creek area subdivisions	608	1,950	5 wells
Cathedral Water Association	Fallen Leaf Lodge Tract Stanford Sierra Tract	22	100	
Craven and Street	Fallen Leaf Lodge			Springs forming Celeste Creek
Tallac Village Water Co.				
Spring Creek Tract Association	West shore of Lake Tahoe	140	3-4,000	Series of unnamed springs with a dam delivery of water by gravity
Cascades Properties Water Co.	West shore of Lake Tahoe	12	20-60	Cascade Lake
Tamarack Mutual Water Co.	West shore of Lake Tahoe	12		Unnamed spring coming from Rubicon Peak
West Tahoe Water System				
Rubicon Palisades	Rubicon Properties	252	930	Lonely Gulch Creek
Tahoe Hills				
Meeks Bay Vista Water Co.				
Glenridge Park Water Co.	Glen Ridge Park	5		Well

CALIFORNIA—El Dorado County (continued)

Water's Edge Condominium Water Co.	Tahoma area	35		Lake Tahoe
Tahoe Cedars Water Co.	Tahoma	400	1,480	Well and Lake Tahoe (summer source)
McKinney Water District	McKinney Estates Subdivisions in both Placer Co. and El Dorado Co.	39	267 Lots	Well

CALIFORNIA - Placer County

Tahoma Meadows	Tahoma Meadows	4		Well
Quail Lake Water Co.	Chamberlands	219	650	Quail Lake
McKinney Shores Water Service	McKinney Shores	40		Lake Tahoe
Madden C. Water Co.	Homewood	105		Madden Creek
Homewood Water Co.				
Tahoe Swiss Village Water Co.	Tahoe Swiss Village	28		Lake Tahoe
Tahoe Pines Water System	Tahoe Pines Subdivision	150		Spring and lake intake
Skyland Water Co.	Blackwood Terrace	50		Lake Tahoe
St. Michaels Woods Water System	St. Michaels Woods	1		Well
Timberland Water Service	Timberland Subdivision	80		2 Wells
Ward Creek Water Co.	Sunnyside Tract	15		Ward Creek
Wards Well Water Co.	Pineland Subdivision	184		2 Wells
Talmont Estates Water Co.	Talmont Estates	108		Well
Tahoe Park Water System	Tahoe Park (Sunnyside)	302	1,120	Spring and Lake Tahoe auxiliary supply
Tahoe Tavern				
Tahoe City PUD	Tahoe City and adjacent area south of Truckee River in Placer County and El Dorado County	600	2,200	4 springs, 1 well, Lake Tahoe (peak periods only)
Lake Park Terrace	Near Tahoe City	10		Well
Lake Tahoe Water Corp.	Highland Estates	150		3 Wells
Lake Forest Water Co.	Lake Forest and Condominiums West	90		Lake Tahoe and spring
Highland Estates Water Co.				
Sierra Nevada Water Co.	Dollar Point subdivision near Tahoe City	80		Lake Tahoe

CALIFORNIA–Placer County (continued)

Lake Forest Water	Lake Forest and Condominiums West	90		Lake Tahoe and one spring
Fulton Water Co.	Ridgewood area on Carnelian Bay	440	1,630	Lake Tahoe
Carnelian Bay Water Co.	Carnelian Bay	80		Watson Creek & Lake Tahoe
Tahoe Estates Water Co.	Tahoe Estates	63		Lake Tahoe
Agate Bay Water Co.	4 Agate Bay Sub-divisions	236	840	Spring
North Tahoe PUD	Brockway, Kings Beach, also sells water at Crystal Bay in Nevada	1,245	3,500	Griff Creek & tributaries on Mt. Baldy